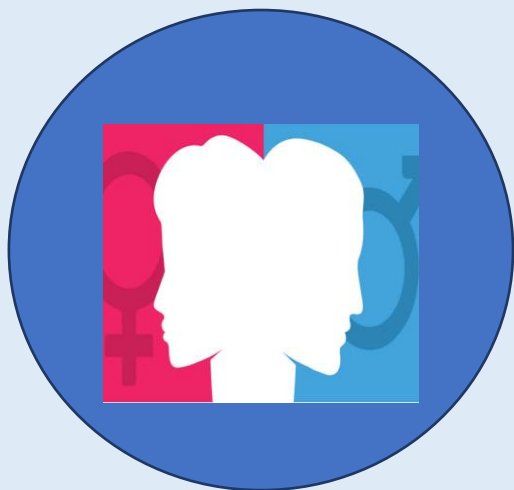


# CIS SPEAKS

December 2018 – January 2019  
Issue



IB Year 1



## (WO)MAN UP

Shrija Pathak, Palak  
Tulsian, Taneesha Datta

Living in the 21st century, our generation's increasing acknowledgement about gender norms where either of the genders are continued to be depicted as inept in certain 'gender-restricted' roles, inspired us to present the outlook of adolescents who struggle daily due to gender stereotyping. We all have a distinct voice, no matter how small or how big. No matter how impactful. No matter how significant. Through the power of our voice, determination, individuality, perseverance, and collaboration we delivered a message loud and clear.

The production team consisted of Jane Ha, Anouska Saraf, Atreyi Ghosh and Palak Tulsian. The production team helped out with invites, posters, costumes and props. We first started off with the invites for all the staff rooms in CIS. Jane Ha helped come up with the design of the invites. The team all worked together to create three such invites on chart paper in order to invite all the teachers. Later, the team moved on to the posters. This was made by Anouska Saraf. Atreyi and Palak went around the entire campus putting up posters to help spread the word about our play "(Wo)man up." Almost the entire school was talking about our play since it would be the first time that IBYr1 would be putting up a play of such sorts. The production team always kept the colour scheme of pink and blue in mind while making the posters and invites. Next were the costumes and props which were handled by Palak Tulsian. After countless messages and reminders, she was able to see all their costumes before the final day. The costumes were assigned to them by the writers and Palak herself. After the costumes were sorted Palak moved on to the props. I gave Palak a list of props that would be required for each of the three scenes. Slowly we assembled all the items in school every day. So, by the time it was the final day some props were already in school. The production team however, did face

few problems along the way. They had to even make digital invite cards for the Principal but due to not being able to get print outs they weren't able to deliver it to her but instead they went personally to invite Dr. Nath and Junior School Principal. We did a couple of stage rehearsals, but we couldn't do even one tech rehearsal with the mikes until the morning of the performance. We had stickers saying "Woman Up" on our arms. We went up on stage and stood under the spotlights. My hands were shaking but I did my best to keep my voice steady - I was speaking from the heart, this was our play, we had worked hard on it and I know it had to go well. When the first scene started one of the lapel microphones stopped working and everyone in the wings started panicking until I shoved a microphone into Shrija's hands and she raced on to the stage to give it to the actor. A couple of lines were missed, but no one noticed. When I walked onto stage for our bow, I felt proud and happy... I think the performance was a success. The entire play taught me plenty of new skills and lessons which I'll always carry with me. We created something special right from scratch and we delivered an actual message - and I really think that some people took it home. And that's something wonderful to have achieved. It was a long road with more than a few obstacles, but I think we managed well. We worked together as a team, as a Class and we couldn't have done any better.





## MASQUERADE BALL

AS Travel and Tourism Students

After 3 months of debating over testable ideas, we came out with, game night, Class trip, Halloween party, a sleepover at school and what not, we couldn't take any of these ideas ahead, due to some reason or the other. We finally came up with the idea of a masquerade ball. We had spent days on end to come up with ideas we would be able to execute. At last, we pulled off our event, as planned on 14th December 2018. The event took place in the Audio Visual Room from 4:30-7PM.

All of us have matured exponentially over the past month or so and learnt valuable organisational and management skills. It all started with us being indecisive over which event to organise as our main focus was to not only score good grades for our Board examination, but also to provide our attendees a fun and memorable night. As every event planning goes, we started off reaching for the clouds with a budget that exceeded our expectations, but slowly got cut down to a more reasonable one. We made posters for our event and began promoting it in school. We did not require any promotions outside school as our target audience, geographically, were the students of Calcutta International School. After putting up the posters we began social media marketing where we marketed our event on platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp as we believed that in today's day and age unless we market our event on these 3 main platforms we are fundamentally irrelevant. Therefore, after effective marketing of our event in a matter of 2 weeks the whole school was aware of this event and began bombarding us with queries. By the end of the 3rd week we had all the names of the people who were attending the event and we had a basic plan of the design and the payment details of the vendors. Suddenly everything fell into place and we knew exactly what to do and when to do it. One of the most important features that is required for the success of any event is the mutual



understanding and co ordination of all team members, which our team possessed. The day before the event, we took up the whole school day to decorate the AVR and plan the event step by step to divide up our responsibilities. 14th December was a hectic day for all of us. We spent hours in the AVR, setting up the lights, blowing up balloons and trying to keep the students out of the AVR. Guests started pouring in from 5:00pm and their reaction to the whole setup was priceless. They had the chance to engage in an exciting game of “Juice Pong” or they could simply dance along to the loud music. Boys and girls in colourful masks filled the AVR and the “Juice Pong” table had attracted a big crowd. Delicious food had also been served that night along with hot tea to make up for the cold weather. The night ended with the small surprise which we had planned for the graduating batch of CIS. Pictures from their time spent at this school were presented and the loud cheers and giggles of the students made this whole event a great success.

After the event was over, we were piled up with post-event tasks such as paying all the remaining costs, making sure the lights, along with all the other miscellaneous items were returned in perfect shape. Our project also required us to attain evidence and feedback from the target audience of the event which was easily possible and time saving because of our official “Enchanted” social media account. Lastly we converted all our thoughts and planning and evidences into a written report.





Habitat for Humanity

Atreyi Ghosh, Svarika  
Sonthalia, Mehul  
Bhargava

A social service programme is something that every student looks forward to. Our class had gone to Hyderabad, from the 17th to 20th December to construct and paint houses for the underprivileged, as part of the Habitat for Humanity organization's "Build for School Children" program. On the first day we were told to rest for the tiresome days ahead. However that didn't stop us from enjoying to the fullest. We spent that day in Time Square Hotel in Secunderabad, sprawled in our friends' rooms chatting the evening away. The travel had worn us out, as we had to attend school before leaving for our flight in the evening.

We started off early the next day, with our teachers continuously encouraging us to devour a heavy breakfast. We travelled to the work site, Keesara Ramalingeshwar Colony, which was a one hour journey by bus. We were greeted by the people who would be guiding us for the consecutive three days. We were introduced to the safety measures and told about the type of work we would have to carry out. We were all given headgears, safety goggles, face masks as well as gloves. The look of pure excitement could be seen on each of our faces. However, we also realised that it demanded dedication and hard work which we were ready to put in. We were divided into two groups without much hassle by assigning each one of us with numbers. We formed a human chain and passed the heavy bricks to the houses we were working on.

After this was done, a huge weight was lifted off our shoulders. It was astonishing to see the wonders teamwork and joint effort can make. Strength is in unity. We transported more than 200 cement blocks. This was definitely empowering and it boosted our confidence. We then proceeded to work on the two different sites as assigned to us. We learnt about a few more nuances of construction such as mixing cement, filling the gaps between blocks and building a house in real life. The amount of physical labour required was overwhelming yet,

the way people worked diligently was inspiring. We were helped by some of the workers while the others enjoyed a day off from such exhausting work. We successfully completed building four layers of the brick wall and ended the day on a good note. All of us went into a deep and peaceful slumber that day, with a sense of accomplishment and aching bodies to tend to.

The next day, we set off to paint houses with buckets full of paint and paintbrushes. This was no easier than lifting heavy bricks, we soon realized. The spaces inside the house were extremely small and teeming with spiders, and it was a struggle for most of us to paint the higher parts of the walls. The paint was also quite watery, and it was difficult to properly cover up the uneven parts of the walls inside the house, especially as some areas were damp. Nevertheless, we worked together enthusiastically, and had managed to finish painting four houses, working twice as fast as was expected of us. We were proud of ourselves for making the lives of the people who would live there happier. That day, we were taken to Paradise restaurant as a reward, and after a very delicious dinner, we returned to the hotel.

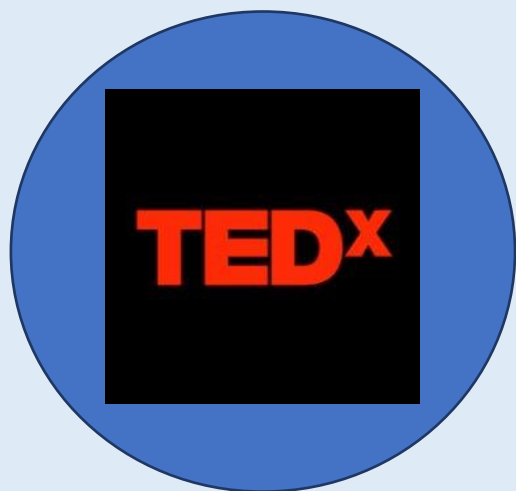
The last day of our stay was of a shorter duration since we had to leave for Kolkata in the evening. We were therefore motivated, encouraged and eager to do more and pack in as much in the minimum time we had.

We were given an option to either paint one more house or build walls for the houses, so, we formed 2 groups and we could complete both the jobs simultaneously. This activity taught us how to work smartly and productively as a team. We collaborated effectively, listened to one another and shared our thoughts and perspectives to understand each other's point of view to work efficiently as a team.

We were given certificates for our hard work and also had our pictures taken. We all had a lot of fun, while working as well as while spending time with friends. The trip made us realise the importance of the work that construction workers do, not only do they earn money, but they also build strong, resilient and safe homes for those in need. These people now have a home to return to, where previously they had none. In that home, they would make many new memories, and have a happier and healthier lifestyle, than if they were homeless. After all, a home is where bonds between families are made and strengthened.







TEDx

Svarika Sonthalia

The TEDx event was the first TED event in Kolkata, organised by my talented peers. It was an experience that I probably will never forget. I was given the honour to speak at this successful event and I can definitely say that it impacted my life greatly. The reach of this event was unimaginable and left all the onlookers stunned. The chills that ran down my spine as well as the adrenaline that coursed through my veins the moment I stepped onto the grand stage, was baffling. I can't possibly be expected to pen down my thoughts and emotions in a mere essay. The crowd was not very huge, however, still as intimidating because of the inspiring and famous faces sitting in the first row, including Skannd Tyagi. It definitely wasn't an easy task to speak my mind without fearing what others may think of me. I was under the pressure of doing exceptionally because my mother was in the audience as well.

However, once I went and stood on that esteemed and glorious red carpet, I forgot about all my worries for those 10 minutes. With butterflies in my stomach and those valuable cue-cards in my hand, I made a mark. A mark in all those minds and hearts present there. Hopefully, they could take something away from my talk on self-esteem and body positivity. We live in a society and world where the first thing people see and judge is, your body. Our bodies are what make us feel confident, however, betray us by being our main insecurity at times. I wanted to tell people that your body or flaws aren't all that define you. Every individual should love oneself. I haven't achieved that yet, however, one can always succeed with constant efforts.







Simply Shampaw

Anouska Saraf

This winter, as part of our CAS Lead Project, Mehul Bhargava, Sanjana Majumdar and I, Anouska Saraf, crafted handmade shampoo bars of various scents to sell at the Winter Carnival at CIS. We were sold out by the end of the evening and we managed to raise a large sum by the sale. This enabled us to purchase vaccinations for stray dogs. We purchased the Distemper vaccination that protects against nervous illnesses and a vaccination against rabies. On 29th December 2018, Dr. Soumaditya Banerjee, the vet who helped us through the project, and I went on a vaccination drive on the roads of Alipore. We vaccinated over 17 dogs, each with the two types of the vaccinations. Most of the vaccinations were used on puppies in hopes that they would grow up to be healthy. This drive was of great significance to me and I hope I can organize and execute more such drives in the future with the involvement of a greater number of people.



## ELOCUTION COMPETITION IN LOCAL LANGUAGES

Bengali Elocution  
Competition

Sara Sengupta

As a part of the Annual Elocution Competition in the local languages, the Bengali Elocution competition was held on 11.1.19. The finalists were Shreyan, Shriyadita, Hrik, Sara, Archisha and Anusree of Grade 7. The event took place in the IGR with all the students of Grades 6 to 8 and teachers present. The elocution competition began with Grade 6. Even though everyone recited their poems very well, there were a few students who stood out a little bit more. Amongst the students of Grade 7 Hrik Mukherjee secured the first place. Avishikta Basu and Anusree Mazumdar placed 2nd and Archisha Dasgupta secured the 3rd position. The event was enjoyed by all classes and we hope to see many more participants in the future.



## ELOCUTION COMPETITION IN LOCAL LANGUAGES

Elocution Competition in Bengali

Grade 8

Our annual middle school elocution competition in local languages was held on 9th of January. The competition was judged by Ms. Piali Ray and the Mrs. Preeti Roychoudhary. After a vigorous round of elimination on the days preceding the competition, Mayurakshi, Shreya, Rishabh and Ayanika were selected from grade 8A and Kateyanee from 8B. All the competitors' elocuted confidently on the day of the competition and the judges had a difficult time deciding on the victor but after a long period of discussion and adding up of numbers, the time to declare the winner had come. The time where suspense was greatest was here. In first place we had Mayurakshi Sarkar, in the runner up spot we had Ayanika Bhattacharjee and in the 2nd runners up we had Rishabh Ghoshal. The competition was fierce and enjoyed by the audience. In the end the judges handed out the certificates and the 2018-19 middle school the elocution competition in local languages had come to an end. What a great way to start the year.



## ELOCUTION COMPETITION IN LOCAL LANGUAGES

Elocution Competition in  
Hindi

Shriyash Dhanuka



We welcomed our esteemed judges Mrs. Sushmita Mukherjee and Mrs. Sudha Tulshan. They were felicitated with a pen stand made by the students. The participants were ready to recite their poems. From class 6A we had Radhika Agarwal, Prangan Bhojak, Tishya Pansari and the reserve was Arya Bhutoria. From class 6B we had Shriyash Dhanuka, Saswata Chowdhury, Saanya Sinha and the reserve Ruhani Duttagupta.

Everyone recited their poem very well. At last, when the judges were calculating their final scores, everyone was very excited. The judges gave their valuable pieces of advice. The results were announced by Mrs. Sharmila Mukerjee. In the third place, we had Shriyash Dhanuka, in the second place we had Prangan Bhojak and in the first place we had Radhika Agarwal. We ended the competition with the school song.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNUAL ENGLISH ELOCUTION COMPETITION

Shubhan Agarwal - grade 8



On 9th December 2018, the annual English Elocution Competition was held for the students of Grade 8. The event involved the participation of spirited students – Ayanika, Kashyapi and Rishabh from 8A and Diya, Manan and Nandagopa from 8B - who spent the past couple of weeks preparing their poems. The theme for the competition was "Animals", and most poems were focused mainly on cats and dogs, those animals the students deemed the most lovable of the lot. After the participants recited their poems with exemplary prowess, it was up to the esteemed judges to conclude the event and announce the winners, but only after tallying up the scores which were almost neck and neck. After much consideration, Kashyapi and Nandagopa were awarded first place, Manan secured second and Ayanika placed third. The event was a huge success, thanks to the flawless recitations by the participants and the active involvement of the judges, and the Grade 8 English teacher, Mrs. Rituparna Mukherjee.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNUAL ELOCUTION COMPETITION IN ENGLISH

Aaryan Agarwalla - Grade 7



The Middle School Annual English Elocution Competition is held every year. This is a stage where the students are encouraged to display their talent, capability, public speaking skills, confidence and their passion for the language. This year it was held on 7th September in the IGR. Every student was involved in the first round. The genre was given to all and their topics of the poems had to be selected from the given genre. The participants for the final round were selected on the basis of the scores given by the judges on their expression, body posture, memory and selection of poem. Before the main day, all the participants had to go through several rounds to be finally selected to perform on stage. The poems as usual showed the richness of English literature. This was a great success and the winners were awarded with certificates. This event would not have been possible without Ms Saraswati who guided the students in selecting their poems and helped organising the event. We hope to have this event every year and discover new talents.





## MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNUAL ELOCUTION COMPETITION IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

### Elocution Competition in French

Anastasia Chattopadhyay

Calcutta International School is an international school in the true sense of the word as the students here get to learn many foreign languages. On the 11th of January 2019 was the elocution competition for foreign languages where the students of class 6, 7 and 8 were given a chance to demonstrate their prowess. A member of the French consulate of Kolkata was the guest judge for the French elocution. The focus of class 8 was Arthur Rimbaud. His poems like 'O Saisons O chateaux' and 'Aube' talked about the inner meaning of life and its eternal beauty. In the French elocution of class 8, Anastasia and Nandgopa secure the third position jointly, Manjeer secured the second position and the first position was secured by Sreejoni. All in all it was a memorable day where the elocution was held in a friendly yet competitive spirit.



**IRIS**

**Vidhi Agarwal**



It came as a surprise to Ridhi, my partner and I when we found out that we were selected for the National Science Fair (AKA IRIS). The project that got us selected was about the early detection of liver cancer (Hepatocellular Carcinoma). We were invited to come and present our project in Delhi from 2nd to 4th December, 2018.

The fair as a whole had been a convivial and informative experience. We made several new friends from whom we learnt a lot. All the 3 days we were present in Delhi wasn't for the presentation. The first day, we had been given time to set up our stalls and get acquainted with our stall mates. The second day had in hand the full judging round where 3 respectable judges had visited our stalls to question us about our project. That very evening, we won a certificate for excellence in Invitro Biology. The last day had brought us despair as we found out that we hadn't qualified for ISEF (international science fair). Even though we weren't selected, we had learnt a lot from the national science fair that we brought home with us. We will go again next year and qualify for the International Science Fair definitely.



## Spectacular Super Sleepover

Gita Basu Mahagama -  
Grade 6

One of the most memorable days will be our sleepover in school. We all had gathered there dressed in our comfy casual wear, meeting and greeting one another. Teachers had their announcements of the night. We all gathered in the tennis court where there was a projector and a screen. We formed two teams and had quizzes about songs, movies, places and more. Later we played dancing games, then the girls came to a decision for a dance battle verses the boys. Before dancing we had to be fully energized. So we went back to the music room and ate some delicious Chinese food and chatted while eating. We were all energized and full. The girls chose a Bollywood song and the boys took a Spanish one. A group of girls danced with joy and happiness to their hearts content, in front of all of our friends and teachers. The boys felt shy but were able to put up a good show. We also had a round of Garba in front of the warm hot bonfire, songs were sung and jokes were shared. We went back to the music room and had a splendid time of karaoke, where we lost all our voices. After it got chilly we all headed up to the IGR where we had comfortable mattresses and pillows, ready all over. We all chose our spots, laid our snacks & candy and cute blankets and were ready to conquer an all-nighter. A horror movie was put up too. We played Antakshari, had pillow fights and the most important part is we understood and got to know each other even better. We all were up and laughing more than ever. Then Mrs. Mukerjee told some horror stories which caught all our attention and in the scary ambience we were frightened too. We ate lots of chocolate and had fun. Soon people were dozing off but about 11 of us didn't sleep at all. We were sad it was morning because we didn't want this to end though the winter morning ambience was great. We all ate a small breakfast and packed our stuff and headed downstairs. We, the proud CIS kids our never tired, so in the cold, breezy and misty morning we started playing basketball and football. We saw the sunrise too which looked just gorgeous. We all were sad to leave but it was the best day ever thanks to our teachers and Friends.





## Carnival

Nikita Cecil, Jeonghyun Ha

On the 30th of November, a Carnival was hosted at CIS. The students organized funky stalls and insightful programs - and today, we are going to interview the two students who had put up the stall 'artxy'!

*Q) Hi Jane and Nikita! I, personally, cannot forget the festive vibe from your carnival and especially from your stall! And I'd like to talk a little bit about that - your stall was exceptionally decorated and well-themed - how did you achieve that? And was there any reason behind putting up a nail art and henna tattoo stall?*

***Nikita:** Hi! And thank you so much! (laughs) We wanted to keep up with the "village fest" theme so we stuck to simple decorations and used fairy lights and polaroids clipped onto a tapestry. We wanted to create an aesthetic atmosphere to go with decorations we had put up, so we had scented candles, lamps and speakers playing some Frank Sinatra lying around!*

*When it comes to nail art and henna tattoos - we actually wanted to do something related to art but also something that could be done in a short period of time. We somehow discovered we were both comfortable with nail art! We wanted to continue to reiterate the village theme so we decided to add henna tattoo to it as well.*

*(Q) Your stall was quite crowded and it shut down an hour after all the others! How did you manage to attract so many people?*

*Jane: At the very beginning, people hesitated to head to our stall since they were very unsure of our skills (laughs) however, some little children got interested in the nail art stickers and suddenly our stall had people lined up watching us. The moment we finished painting her nails, we had an absolute overload of customers, and in all honesty, our hands were so full - one of us were painting the nails of three people! I still can't forget a kid who wanted the exact same design as her friend's so we needed to work hard to get an identical design.*

*(Q) That must have been hard! Did you have any difficulties putting up the stalls too?*

*Nikita: Oh, absolutely! So, I was taking part in the play, 'Women Up! I had to keep running from one place to the other in between rehearsals, which was honestly quite tiring because of my costume and because we were having issues with the microphone and wanted to do a complete rehearsal.*

*Jane: We also struggled with the electricity in the stall! We needed a plug point for the fairy lights, so I requested the manager to work on it as soon as possible, however, it came last moment and we were a little flustered at that point and tried to fix it up quickly but we felt that the stall looked unorganized, and we had to rearrange things all over again!*

*(Q) What was the best part of the carnival?*

*Nikita: All the school teachers lining up! And a few boys wanted to get their nails painted, I think that really helps break the gender norms, and I'm incredibly proud of them for being open-minded and the desire to normalize this! All in all, it was both tiring and exciting - it was the first time we put our hands into making a profit, so that was a whole new experience, too!*

## CREATING AWARENESS IN EDUCATORS ABOUT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Dr. Jai Ranjan Ram, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Founder RACSHA (Rise Against Child Sexual Harm and Abuse)



Dr. Ram initiated a discussion on how to handle a case of Violation of personal safety. As these cases are extremely critical, parents/teachers/carers need to be careful about the age appropriateness of language while discussing such matters with the child. It was explained that a preventive approach, wherein children are made aware on CSA and they must be spoken to about safety issues and strategies to deal with it. In this regard, one technique to create comfort among children to talk about this critical topic is to build it into a generic discussion pertaining to daily life situations and activities. This will prevent the child from being alarmed as well as de-stigmatize the issue. The concept of Funnelling was explained – how to gradually probe into sensitive details. As an activity, specific situations were given and teachers were asked to





deliberate upon them – explaining if they found the particular behaviour to be appropriate or not. This activity was done to enhance the understanding of milestones of sexual development in children and adolescents.

Various concepts and terminologies related to gender and sexuality were explained – LGBTQI, different sexual orientations. The need to determine the context of a child's actions was emphasized.

Feedback from the audience was extremely positive : “The workshop opened up a free and open conversation about a subject which has stigma”, “The workshop was enriching. We learnt how to deal with the situation and start a conversation. Once things are clear the background should also be taken into consideration”, and “It gave us deeper insight into how to probe deeper to get a contextual understanding of such difficult situations”.

